

Message Text

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S E C R E T PRETORIA 4226

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND MC HENRY FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SUGGESTIONS FOR SECRETARY'S CALL
TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA

REF: USUN 3003

1. I AGREE THAT CALL TO BOTHA MAY BE MOST USEFUL AND IS EFFORT THAT SHOULD BE MADE. SINCE, AS REFTEL POINTS OUT, WE ARE DEALING WITH VORSTER'S STRONG PERSONAL VIEWS, HOWEVER, IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO REITERATE ALL THE TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE IN ANY EVENT SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTED BY VORSTER OR BOTHA.

2. THUS I BELIEVE FIRST THREE POINTS MIGHT BE COMBINED AND CONDENSED SOMEWHAT, RETAINING MOST OF THE FIRST POINT, DROPPING THE SECOND, AND SHORTENING THE THIRD. THIS WOULD GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO THE FOURTH POINT NOTING THE ABSENCE OF COERCIVE LANGUAGE AND SOUTH AFRICA'S VERY CLEAR CONTROL OF WALVIS BAY.

3. I BELIEVE FIFTH POINT CONCERNING LEGAL VERSUS
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POLITICAL POSITIONS MIGHT BE DROPPED OR ELSE REVISED TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT WHILE THE GOAL OF WALVIS BAY INTEGRATION IS INDEED ACCEPTED (A GOAL WE BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED BY SAG WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE), NO POSITION HAS BEEN TAKEN REGARDING THE TERMS OF SUCH INTEGRATION, AS THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

4. THE SIXTH POINT, EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL QUESTION OF WHAT IS NECESSARY TO GET AGREEMENT FOR A LASTING, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IS GOOD AND SHOULD BE RETAINED. THE NEXT FIVE POINTS MIGHT BE CONDENSED AND DRAWN UPON ONLY AS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THAT POINT, ALTHOUGH THE ONE ABOUT ATTRIBUTING SPECIFICITY TO OUR POSITION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NEED TO BE EXPLAINED.

5. THE LAST TWO POINTS ARE GOOD ONES TO CONCLUDE ON AND MIGHT BE REINFORCED BY SUGGESTING THAT IN THE LONG RUN HISTORY WILL JUDGE ALL OUR ACTIONS NOT ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS CURRENTLY BEING ARGUED BUT ON HOW WELL AND JUSTLY THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES WERE PRESERVED AND WHETHER WE SUCCEEDED OR FAILED IN ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND LASTING SETTLEMENT.

6. GIVEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DETERMINING ROLE IN MAKING ANY FINAL DECISION, THE SECRETARY MIGHT CONSIDER ASKING BOTHA WHETHER HE THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ANY OF THE FIVE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK TO VORSTER DIRECTLY. I BELIEVE THE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH AND SUFFICIENTLY IN DOUBT TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFORT WORTHWHILE. IN THIS CONNECTION, BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT HAS SHOWN ME DRAFT CALLAGHAN-VORSTER LETTER WHICH, WITH CHANGE OR TWO, SHOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. I WILL SEND FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS IDEA SEPTEL.

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